

MISSOURI BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Protecting Citizens from Crime

“During my administration we will not only say that we are tough on crime –we will be tough on crime.”

Governor Matt Blunt

Crime is a major concern across Missouri. Citizens want and deserve to feel safe in their own homes and communities. They want to be able to work and raise their children without having to fear being harmed by violent criminals. Every Missourian deserves to feel safe in their home, school, community, and place of work. Governor Blunt is committed to reducing crime by providing law enforcement officers the tools they need to do their jobs and by advocating policies that help decrease the production of methamphetamine.

Supporting Missouri Law Enforcement Personnel

Law enforcement personnel risk their lives each and every day to protect Missourians. The State Highway Patrol continues to confront serious personnel shortages as a result of an inadequate salary structure. To provide appropriate compensation that recognizes the patrol's service and sacrifice and gives them the necessary tools to perform their jobs, Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes:

- \$4.2 million for the second part of a three-year pay increase for Highway Patrol personnel. This increase should make patrol salaries more comparable to the largest police departments in the state.
- \$1.6 million to implement the DNA All Felon Program pursuant to SB 1000 (2004). This program is expected to reduce the number of unsolved crimes dramatically by obtaining DNA samples of all felons in state custody and comparing them against state and federal databases.
- \$1.4 million to service and replace Highway Patrol in-car video systems that record information used for evidence and training purposes.
- \$1.3 million to upgrade Highway Patrol vehicle safety features, including side impact airbags and fire suppression systems.
- \$966,900 to automate driver examination tests throughout the state. This will improve system integrity, reduce fraud, and capture photo images to prevent false identification which will strengthen efforts to prevent terrorist acts.

Protecting Against Health Hazards for Missouri Law Enforcement Officers

Law enforcement personnel are subject to extremely high levels of stress and environmental pollutants, but they are not covered by Workers' Compensation for respiratory and pulmonary diseases or stress-related injuries. Missouri's firefighters are afforded Workers' Compensation protection for these afflictions. Governor Blunt supports legislation this session to provide equitable coverage for law enforcement officers with occupational injuries.

Deterring Automobile Break-ins

Crimes involving automobile theft and property stolen from motor vehicles are on the rise. Damage to a car can cost thousands of dollars to repair in addition to the loss of stolen items. Governor Blunt supports additional measures to deter these criminals. The Governor will work with the General Assembly to pass legislation that elevates the act of damaging a motor vehicle while committing the crime of stealing to the level of a felony offense.

Paying the State Share of Prisoner Costs

State law requires that counties be reimbursed for their costs to house state prisoners. The current level of reimbursement is \$20 per day, far short of the amount required to cover the actual costs to counties. Counties have had to take severe measures to absorb the state's shortfall. To address this unfunded state mandate, Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes \$1.6 million to increase the state's share of prisoner costs. This funding will increase the payment to counties to \$21 per day per prisoner.

Keeping Dangerous Sexual Offenders in State Custody

Missouri law allows courts to civilly commit sexually violent predators to the custody of the Department of Mental Health after they have completed their prison sentence. The department houses offenders who have completed their prison sentences but have been deemed by the court as a danger to society at the Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center. To confine additional sexual offenders who have been mandated to state custody, Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes \$1.3 million for a new 17-bed sexually violent predator treatment unit.

Child Welfare System Funding

Child abuse and neglect are tragic consequences that can result from troubled families. The state must provide safe settings for at-risk children and facilitate the permanent placement of children who cannot return home. Over the past several years, the state's child welfare system has come under fire for not adequately addressing the needs of children in its care.

Sometimes children in the foster care system are so troubled that they require special treatment in a residential home setting. Providing housing and services for children with special needs is one of the greatest challenges of a state's child welfare system. Missouri has a committed network of private providers which meets the needs of this population. However, the costs to providers have exceeded the reimbursements for these services. To maintain a strong network of residential providers for abused and neglected children in state custody, Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes \$7 million to fund a rate increase.

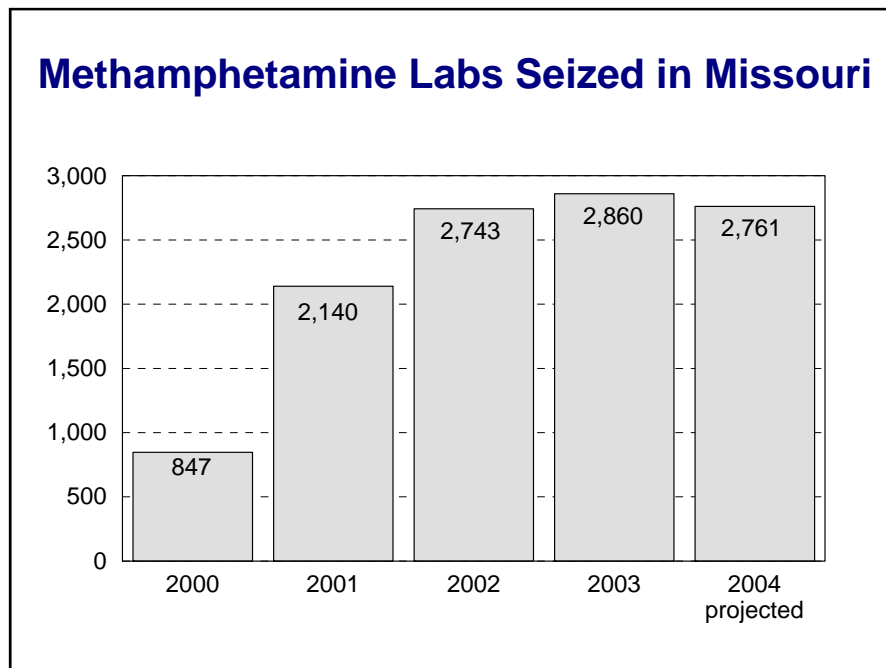
Stopping Meth Producers

According to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, methamphetamine (meth) production and abuse have become the most dangerous drug problem for small towns in America. Meth is a highly addictive drug that can be manufactured by using relatively inexpensive, over-the-counter ingredients. It is a powerful stimulant associated with serious health conditions, including aggression, violence, psychotic behavior, and brain damage. The chemicals used to manufacture meth are lethally toxic, extremely flammable, and have a devastating impact on the environment when improperly disposed of by those producing it.

The State of Missouri has become a "Meth Mecca." One of the chief reasons for this dubious status is the state's large number of rural areas, which are desirable to meth lab operators who seek places where they are less likely to be detected by law enforcement. Missouri is also desirable because of its location in the center of the United States, which makes it a transportation hub with

excellent access to all parts of the country. For these reasons and others, Missouri led the nation in methamphetamine lab busts in 2003 with 2,860.

In order to stop meth production in the state, Missouri must cut off access to the ingredients that are used to produce the drug. Pseudoephedrine in the starch-based form is the key ingredient required in the production of meth. It is a common ingredient in many cold medicines and can be easily purchased at convenience stores, grocery stores, and pharmacies. In 2004, Oklahoma passed the first law in the country to add starch-based pseudoephedrine to the list of controlled substances that must be kept behind the counter and sold only at pharmacies. Oklahoma officials have noticed a dramatic decrease in meth seizures since enactment of the law. Unless Missouri implements a similar measure, meth producers will likely just cross state lines and set up shop in our state, exacerbating a problem that has already reached the level of an epidemic.



2005 Legislative Initiative Combating Missouri's Methamphetamine Epidemic

Governor Blunt will work with the General Assembly to pass legislation restricting access to pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient used to make methamphetamine. To reduce methamphetamine production in Missouri, the Governor's proposal will:

- Make products containing pseudoephedrine a Class V controlled substance. These products will be available only in pharmacies and can only be sold by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician.
- Require presentation of photo identification when purchasing pseudoephedrine products.
- Require purchasers of pseudoephedrine products to sign a written log, which will be available for inspection to law enforcement officers.
- Limit monthly purchases of pseudoephedrine products to 9 grams – approximately three typical sized boxes of cold medication.
- Exempt pseudoephedrine products in the liquid and liquid gel cap forms. Meth cannot be readily made from pseudoephedrine in these forms.

Recognizing Those Who Have Served Our State and Nation

No group of Missourians is more deserving of gratitude, respect, praise, and provision than those who have worn the nation's service uniform. Many of Missouri's 562,000 veterans have devoted their most productive years to the service of our nation so that the freedom and democracy we enjoy can be maintained for posterity. Governor Blunt will recognize the extraordinary sacrifices made by these individuals by serving as a stalwart advocate for Missouri's veterans and military retirees.

The Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund, designed to support veterans' homes and veterans' cemeteries, is experiencing financial difficulty. As the operating costs of the seven veterans' homes have risen, the expenses associated with running the facilities have begun to exceed the revenues generated by the facilities, resulting in a budget shortfall. For the fund to remain solvent, additional financial support is required. Governor Blunt recommends the following measures to continue these critical services for Missouri veterans:

- \$13.8 million to ensure stable funding for residential care services in the veterans' homes.
- \$2.9 million for increased pharmaceutical costs at veterans' homes.

Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans Affairs

The Missouri Veterans' Commission is a five-member, statutory board located within the Department of Public Safety. The Commission is charged with the day-to-day administrative responsibilities for state veterans' programs, as well as oversight of the veterans' homes and veterans' cemeteries. A need remains, however, for an advisory group

with direct access to the Governor that can provide advice on emerging issues related to veterans. Governor Blunt will issue an Executive Order establishing a Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans' Affairs, which will meet with him regularly and recommend appropriate measures to assist Missouri veterans.

2005 Legislative Initiative Support for Missouri Military Families

Missouri currently has a tax check-off program that provides an opportunity for individuals or corporations receiving a state income tax refund to donate a portion of their return to designated, not-for-profit organizations. Governor Blunt is committed to supporting the men and women who serve in the National Guard and Reserves. Often their service is over an extended period of time, which can cause financial hardships for these men and women and their families. To help alleviate this hardship, the Governor supports legislation that:

- Creates a Military Family Relief Fund to provide assistance to the families of Missouri National Guard members or reservists with the United States Armed Forces who are called to active duty.
- Adds the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund to the contribution options available under the state income tax check-off program. This will allow individuals or corporations to donate one dollar or more of their tax return to benefit the families of those serving our state and nation.